

Testimony for HB 5303

**For the electronic record, I am writing in support of HB 5303 Emergency Medication for Children with Epilepsy.** This legislation would facilitate prompt medicinal response to an epileptic seizure among certain children attending public and nonpublic schools by authorizing a trained unlicensed surrogate to administer the medication in the event that a qualified school nurse is not present.

The passage of this bill is of utmost importance to my friends Jim and Victoria Ross, and my Godson Emmett Ross who suffers from epileptic seizures on a regular basis. Emmett is at high risk of having a seizure at school or on the bus when a nurse is not present. The administration of antiepileptic medications to Emmett by trained teachers and aides, in the absence of a nurse, is very much like administering other highly accepted lifesaving techniques such as CPR, the Heimlich Maneuver, automatic defibrillation and an EpiPen injection.

While babysitting at the age of 14, I saved a child from choking using the Heimlich Maneuver, a technique I learned in an elective gym class in high school. I was very grateful I knew exactly what to do to save his life. I'm quite sure that the teachers and aides who work with Emmett will also be grateful to know how to administer his medication and save his life.

It is very difficult for me to understand how anyone could object to the passage of this lifesaving bill. For the sake of my Godson and other children suffering from epileptic seizures, please pass HB 5303.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Israel, MPH  
679 Rowland Road, Fairfield, CT 06824  
Tel/Fax: (203) 256-1779 Cell: (203) 685-5835  
[alisrael@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alisrael@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.linkedin.com/in/alyssaisrael](http://www.linkedin.com/in/alyssaisrael)